



January 2002

Community Involvement Plan Taylor Lumber and Treating Site Sheridan, Oregon

This Community Involvement Plan identifies community concerns about the Taylor Lumber and Treating site. The site was added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in June 2000. This plan also outlines opportunities for the public to become involved in future investigation and cleanup activities.

The plan was based on suggestions from the community and EPA staff, and we welcome further community input at any time. **As EPA begins the long-term cleanup phase of this project, we recognize that there may be additional concerns and/or information we should hear. Please feel free to call Debra Sherbina, Community Involvement Coordinator, at any time to share your ideas and concerns. She can be reached toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.**

We are posting it on the EPA Region 10 web page at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. Click on "Index," then click on "T" to find Taylor Lumber. If you have questions about this site, this plan, or would like additional information, please call, write, or e-mail:

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This plan contains information on:

- Community Concerns
- Community Involvement Activities
- Next Steps in the Cleanup
 - General Health Effects from Woodtreating Chemicals
 - Threats to the Environment
- Site Description and Background
- What Is Superfund?
- Site Contacts

EPA encourages meaningful community involvement. The goals of this plan are to:

- ☐ inform the public of current and planned site activities.
- ☐ maintain open communication about site cleanup, ensuring questions are answered and concerns are addressed as they occur.
- ☐ provide citizens with opportunities to comment on and be involved in EPA cleanup decisions that will have long-term effects on their community.

Community Concerns

Representatives from EPA held a public informational meeting in October 2001. We presented early findings from our cleanup study (Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study) at Taylor, and discussed next steps. We also met individually with community members, local officials, and staff from the Grand Ronde Tribe to listen to concerns about the site now that the long-term cleanup has begun.

Summary of comments from October 2001 public meeting and interviews:

- ◆ Concerns about fluctuating seasonal water levels and contaminated groundwater flowing over fields and onto properties.
 - ◆ Concerns about woodtreating contaminants in ditches. EPA found several areas near the site with high contaminant levels. Early removal may be necessary.
 - ◆ The Sheridan City Manager and several community members said that one of the biggest concerns is protecting city drinking water.
 - ◆ The Yamhill County Soil Water Conservation District staff mentioned they would like EPA to share Superfund summary reports with them when we get to that stage in the cleanup. They would also like to be informed about any chemicals EPA identifies in the surface water, groundwater or city wells.
 - ◆ Two people mentioned concerns about loss of jobs in the area due to Taylor closing down.
 - ◆ If another wood-treating company purchases the site, would EPA require them to use an environmentally-friendly treating process?
- ◆ Were past workers at Taylor put at risk?
 - ◆ How often is the South Yamhill River sampled? Were contaminants found? When will it be tested again?
 - ◆ How deep have contaminants been found at the site, and how much contamination is there?
 - ◆ Concerns about how long it will take for EPA to finish the cleanup.
 - ◆ When asked about various new ways to keep the public informed of Taylor Site activities, the following were mentioned: articles and announcements in *Smoke Signals*, the Grand Ronde Tribal Newspaper; presentations at Yamhill Watershed council meetings (held every second Thursday of the month in McMinnville); and announcements on the local Sheridan cable station, U-Vision [(503) 843-4433].

Past Community Interviews:

Representatives from EPA met with local officials in December 1999 to discuss the site. These initial interviews helped EPA understand community concerns and how residents would like to be involved in the cleanup process. Commentors at this time said they wanted the city water protected, gave suggestions for newspapers to use to inform the community of site activities, and expressed concerns about the company staying in business.

For a complete copy of the first version of the Community Involvement Plan (dated February 2000), please call Debra Sherbina at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.

If you have ideas or concerns to share regarding this plan or community involvement at this site, please call Debra Sherbina at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.

EPA Community Involvement Activities for this site include:

- ☛ An information repository has been established at the Sheridan Public Library to make fact sheets and other site-related documents available for public review. Documents will be added as they become available. The library is located at 142 N.W. Yamhill Street.
- ☛ A site mailing list has been developed and is updated on a regular basis.
- ☛ The following fact sheets have been distributed: November 1999, December 2000, July 2000, November 2000 and June 2001.
- ☛ A public meeting was held in October 2001 to present early findings from the cleanup investigation and respond to public concerns.
- ☛ Interviews were conducted in October 2001 and December 1999 to provide information for this Community Involvement Plan. We welcome additional comments and ideas.

Some of the tools that EPA plans to use to keep the community informed and involved in the activities at the site are listed below. The level of community interest will be closely monitored and activities will be conducted as appropriate. This list can be updated at any time and EPA welcomes additional suggestions from community members.

Public Meetings

If the community indicates an interest, public meetings will be used to provide important information. All public meetings will be announced in future fact sheets and notices in the *Sheridan Sun*.

Fact Sheets

Fact sheets and other information materials summarizing activities, and site-related technical documents and reports, will be mailed to EPA's mailing list as information becomes available. *To be added to the mailing list, please call Debra Sherbina at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.*



Internet Website

A website on the Taylor site activities is located at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. Click on "Index," then click on "T" to find Taylor Lumber.



Additional Community Involvement Activities, If Requested**Technical Assistance Grants**

EPA will provide information on Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) to all interested parties. A TAG provides funds to citizen groups that are affected by Superfund. Grant money is used to hire technical advisors to help interpret and explain technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process.

Grants up to \$50,000 are available, and require the group to match a local share contribution of 20% of total program cost. EPA recognizes the value of your group's skills and time. The TAG Program allows you to count the value of volunteer services and contributions of supplies toward the required 20% match. Donated office equipment and

time, as well as cash, count towards this 20% match. Volunteer services and donated supplies used toward your match are called "in-kind contributions." To receive more information about TAGs, please call Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Region 10 TAG Coordinator, at (206) 553-6919, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 6919.

Educational Workshops

Informal workshops are not planned at this time. However, citizens may request a workshop on such topics as: Sampling Techniques, Potential Health and Environmental Risks Associated with the Site, and the Superfund Process.

Next Steps in the Cleanup

The next step is to design a comprehensive, long-term cleanup strategy to address contaminants in soil, groundwater, surface water, and possibly the South Yamhill River. EPA began this study by using existing data to evaluate what types of contamination are at the site, and how much is present.

During this first phase of the study, called a "Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study" (RI/FS), highly contaminated areas that may need early cleanup are being identified. EPA will also identify what additional data is needed to complete the study. In the second phase of the RI/FS, EPA will sample as necessary to fill in any missing information, evaluate the extent of the contamination at the site, evaluate cleanup alternatives, and then choose a final remedy for the site. EPA will hold a public comment period and hearing to gather input on all alternatives before this final remedy is chosen.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EPA share responsibility for ensuring environmental rules are followed at Taylor Lumber. DEQ issues permits for air emissions and water discharges. EPA has the lead for hazardous waste management and cleanup.

General Health Effects from Woodtreating Chemicals

Pentachlorophenol (PCP) is mainly used for wood preservation, particularly the treatment of utility poles. PCP can easily enter the body by breathing contaminated air, ingesting contaminated water or food, or touching a contaminated surface. Brief exposure to high levels of PCP may cause damage to various organs or could be fatal. Long-term exposure to lower levels of PCP can damage the liver, blood and the central nervous system. In addition, based on animal studies, EPA has classified PCP as a probable human carcinogen.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are formed during incomplete burning of fossil fuel or any organic matter. Exposure to PAHs may occur by inhaling airborne particles, drinking water, eating contaminated food, or accidentally ingesting contaminated soil. Some PAHs are known carcinogens. Rapidly growing tissues, such as the intestinal lining, bone marrow, lymphoid organs, blood cells and

testes seem especially susceptible to non-carcinogenic effects of PAHs.

Dioxin is a colorless and odorless compound which can persist in the environment for a long time. These compounds can be formed during the manufacture or burning of certain chlorinated chemicals. Dioxins are also found as impurities in some pesticides such as pentachlorophenol. Overexposure has caused chloracne, a severe skin lesion. Limited evidence suggests that dioxin causes liver damage and digestive disorders in humans. It is also classified as a probable human carcinogen. Animal studies have shown many different adverse effects that vary with the species studied.

Potential health problems from exposure depend on a variety of things, including the amount of the chemical; how the chemical entered the body; how long and how often a person has been exposed; and how sensitive different people are to its effect.

Threats to the Environment

The surface water from the Rock Creek Road drainage ditch, Rock Creek, and the planing mill and sawmill drainage ditches runs into the South Yamhill River. Sensitive steelhead and salmon populations live in the river. Contaminated groundwater may also flow into the river.

Site Description and Background

The Taylor site processes and treats wood. The site covers about 234 acres and is one mile west of the City of Sheridan, Oregon. The site has a number of buildings including a maintenance shop, a sawmill, a tank farm with 13 above-ground storage tanks, and a laboratory. The surrounding area contains mostly commercial/industrial properties and some residences. The site is located alongside the Yamhill river.

The sawmill began operating in 1946. Operations include peeling, milling, planing, and chipping raw wood to produce lumber products. The ends of the finished lumber products are painted in order to prevent moisture loss. Wood chips and bark are used as "hog fuel" in the boiler, which generates steam for the facility. Waste and debris from site operations were deposited in an area southeast of the planing mill from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Wood treating to condition and pressure-treat wood products with preservatives began in 1966. Wood preserving chemicals include petroleum-based creosote and PCP solutions. Chemonite, which contains arsenic acid, copper salts, zinc, and ammonia, was also used as a wood preservative from 1982 to 1996.

The facility had numerous oil spills of PCP and creosote, including one in February 1999 of 3,500 gallons and another in September 1999 of 30,000 gallons. Cleanup of the spills has been completed.

Surface water from the drainage ditches surrounding the facility drain into the South Yamhill River. The City of Sheridan

municipal water intake is located approximately 1-½ miles downstream from one of the drainage ditches. The Yamhill River is also used for recreational fishing and has sensitive fisheries, including steelhead and salmon.

Immediate action was needed to protect against exposure to the chemicals found at the site. EPA used authorities and funding provided by the federal Superfund law to conduct the following cleanup activities:

- ⇒ During 2000, EPA and Taylor removed 4,200 tons of contaminated soil from ditches around the facility to keep it from washing into Rock Creek and the South Yamhill River.
- ⇒ To prevent further movement of contaminated groundwater, EPA also built a slurry wall and an asphalt cap around the main treatment plant. The cap will minimize additional water seepage into the ground, where it could be contaminated by woodtreating chemicals in the soils and move toward the river.
- ⇒ EPA built a second asphalt cap in the treated pole storage area. Both caps will limit airborne dust, which contains contaminants such as arsenic.

The site was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2001. The NPL is a list of sites targeted for further investigation and long-term cleanup under Superfund. The entire facility (the sawmill and wood treating facility) is now closed and it is uncertain whether one or both of them will reopen in the future.

What Is Superfund?

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). These two laws are commonly known as Superfund.

Superfund gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to investigate and clean up releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. The Superfund process

is complex and can take many years to complete. On average, a site can stay on the National Priorities List (NPL) anywhere from six to ten years, and some sites are still on the list after 15-20 years.

If an immediate problem threatens public health or the environment, EPA also has the authority under Superfund to address the situation quickly through a removal action.

Superfund Information Available on the Internet

Superfund Program Acronym Glossary

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/gloss1.htm>

Glossaries of environmental terms

<http://www.epa.gov/ocepa111/OCEPAterms/>

<http://www.epa.gov/oerrpage/superfund/resources/hrstrain/htmain/glossal.htm>

Superfund Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.epa.gov/superfund/faqs/sf_faqs.htm

Site Contacts

EPA Officials:

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(206) 553-0247

Loren McPhillips, Project Manager

(206) 553-4903

You may also call EPA toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

The Administrative Record, a file containing all information used to make decisions on cleanup actions for the site, will be available at the following locations:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Seventh Floor Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206)553-4494

Sheridan Public Library
142 N.W. Yamhill Street
Sheridan, Oregon
(503) 843-3420

EPA Region 10 Webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting 1-800-424-4372.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN
Taylor Lumber and Treating Site
Sheridan, Oregon

United States
Environmental Protection
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